<u>Committee Name</u>: Senate Committee – Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy (SC-JCP)

Appointments

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Committee Hearings

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Committee Reports

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Clearinghouse Rules

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Executive Sessions

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Hearing Records

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Record of Committee Proceedings

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Vote Record

Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy

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Vote Record

Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Privacy

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Sporting Heritage Inc. P.O. Box 2735 Eagle River, WI 54521 262-514-3766

Dear Senator Zien and Representative Gunderson:

On behalf of the nearly 20,000 sporting men and women across Wisconsin who have been active in our organization's efforts, thank you for your continued support of the Sporting Heritage Amendment. You were with us at the start of our efforts to build grassroots support to permanently protect our Right to Hunt, Fish and Trap in the Wisconsin Constitution.

Your efforts have been an invaluable part of our efforts to introduce the Sporting Heritage Amendment to grassroots activists across Wisconsin. You stood with us at the very first announcement of this amendment in the summer of 2000. Since then, we have kicked off the largest grassroots legislative effort in recent Wisconsin history, gathering the support of numerous organizations and collecting tens of thousands of petition signatures supporting our cause.

We have reorganized to allow us to better serve the sportsmen and gun owners of our state. As Sporting Heritage Inc., we can protect and build on our success as the lead organization in passing the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and advancing the Sporting Heritage Amendment. We will now work to represent grassroots hunters, fishermen and gun owners on the many issues that affect our heritage.

We thank you for seeking our view on the best date to bring the Sporting Heritage Amendment before Wisconsin voters. While we recognize the value of the November General Election in generating the highest number of voters, this is a Right that cannot wait another year-and-a-half to be recognized and protected. We strongly urge you to amend the Joint Resolution to place the amendment on the ballot in the April 2003 General Election statewide. The sooner we get this done, the sooner our future is protected.

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We understand it will take a tremendous effort to hold hearings in both houses and pass the resolution in time to be placed on the April Ballot. We would never have asked in the previous session because of the obstructionist leadership in the Senate. But, now, with new Senate leadership and grassroots support, we are sure you can get this through in time.

Again, Senator Zien and Representative Gunderson, you have always set yourselves apart by listening to the needs of the everyday sportsmen in setting policy. We hope you will listen to the grassroots we have brought together around this proposal and amend the election date to the April 2003 General Election.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other important issues.

Sincereix

Greg T. Dzieidzic

President

Sporting Heritage, Inc.

Sporting Heritage, Inc.

To:

Senate Judiciary Committee

From:

Bill Skewes, Sporting Heritage

Re:

Support for SJR/AJR 7

Date:

January 16, 2003

Good afternoon Senators. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important initiative. And thank you Senator Zien and Rep. Gunderson for bringing this legislation to a speedy hearing. I appreciate all the work you and other supporters and sponsors of the right to hunt and fish have done protect the rights of current and future generations of Wisconsin sportsmen and women.

My name is Bill Skewes and I am here today as a private citizen and a co-founder of Sporting Heritage, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the rights of Wisconsin sportsmen and gun owners. You may recall that we were formed for the purpose of passing the Right to Keep and Bear Arms amendment in the fall of 1998. And we helped organize the support for passage of the Right to Hunt and Fish (first consideration). We are here again today to urge you pass this important legislation as soon as possible.

Sporting Heritage believes that enshrining the right to hunt fish and trap in the state constitution will protect this cherished tradition for future generations. As our society becomes more urbanized, fewer and fewer of our citizens have any connection to the land or an understanding of the role that hunters and anglers play in conservation. Some have even argued that this legislation is not needed because there is no threat to hunting and fishing.

Yet, the animal rights movement, though marginalized, continues to gain steam and the number of organizations dedicated to banning hunting and fishing grows. By contrast, the number of hunters and anglers, as measured by license sales nationally, is on the decline. Even in Wisconsin, where we pride ourselves on our hunting and fishing traditions, the number of licenses sold over the past decade has remained static and is even projected to decrease. Therefore, the time to act is now. Not when our numbers are diminished but when we are strong. Again, thank you for moving this legislation forward and for your outstanding record of support of Wisconsin's hunters, anglers and trappers.

ntroduced by Senator_

(PRINCIPAL AUTHOR)

Cosponsored by Representative GUNDER SON

BY REQUEST OF)

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